

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a plurality of processing sets, each having at least one processor, and
a bridge coupled to each of said processing sets and operable to monitor a step locked
operation of said processing sets, wherein
each of said processors ~~has~~ comprises a processor identification register which is
read/writeable and is ~~operable~~ configured to store in said register data
representative of a processor identification, each of said processors being ~~arranged~~
configured, consequent upon a predetermined condition, to load a common
predefined data value that is common to said processing sets into ~~said its~~
processor identification register.

22. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said
predetermined condition is a reset state of at least one of said plurality of processors.

23. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said reset
state is a state asserted in said computer system following boot or re-boot.

24. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein each of said
processing sets includes a boot memory unit storing data which is representative of initialization
code arranged to initialize said processor to operate within said computer system, said boot
memory unit including said common predefined data value which is loaded by said processor
into said processor identification register.

25. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said boot memory unit is a programmable read-only memory.

26. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed Claim 21, wherein said common predefined data value is an all zeros value.

27. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein each of said processors further includes a read only register having stored therein said processor identification data.

28. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said processor identification data stored in said read only register is loaded, upon initialization into said processor identification register.

29. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said common predefined value is a processor identification of one of the processors of said computer system, said processor identification of each of said processors being matched.

30. (Currently amended) A processor for use in a processing set forming part of a fault tolerant computer system that includes a plurality of processing sets, said processor comprising:
an interface for communication with an I/O bus, and
a processor identification register coupled to said interface, said register is read/writeable and is configured to store data representative of a processor identification, wherein said processor is responsive to a masking condition, to write a common predefined data value received via said I/O bus into said processor identification register, wherein said predefined data value is common to said processing sets and is operable to mask said data representative of a processor identification.

31. (Previously presented) A processor as claimed in Claim 30, comprising a read only register having stored therein said processor identification data, wherein said processor identification data stored in said read only register is loadable, upon initialization into said processor identification register.

32. (Currently amended) A method of operating a fault tolerant computer system comprising a plurality of processing sets, each of which processing sets is connected to a bridge, each of said processing sets having at least one processor, at least a first processor in said computer system comprising a processor identification register, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a predetermined condition representative of a state in which ~~said a~~ processor identification is present in ~~a~~ the processor identification register of said first processor; and

loading a common predefined data value into said processor identification register of ~~each~~ ~~of~~ said first processors, which predefined data value is common to said processing sets and is operable to mask said processor identification.

33. (Currently amended) A method of operating a fault tolerant computer system as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said predetermined condition is a reset state of at least ~~one of said plurality of a~~ processing sets comprising said first processor.

34. (Previously presented) A method of operating a fault tolerant computer system as claimed in Claim 33, wherein said reset state is a state asserted in said fault tolerant computer system following boot or re-boot.

35. (Currently amended) A method of operating a fault tolerant computer system as claimed in Claim 32, comprising:

detecting an error condition of at least ~~one of said plurality of a~~ processing sets comprising said first processor, and

if said error condition is detected performing the step of loading said common predefined data value in said processor identification register of said ~~at least one~~ first processor ~~of the processing set which has said detected error~~.

36. (Currently amended) A method of operating a fault tolerant computer system comprising a plurality of processing sets, each having at least one processor, and a bridge coupled to each of said processing sets and operable to monitor a step locked operation of said processing sets, said method comprising the steps of:

removing a processor of one of said processing sets; and

replacing the removed processor with a replacement processor that includes:

an interface for communication with an I/O bus, and

a processor identification register which is read/writeable and has stored in said

register data representative of a processor identification, wherein said replacement

processor is responsive to a masking condition, to write a common predefined

data value received via said I/O bus into said processor identification register,

wherein said predefined data value is common to said processing sets and is

operable to mask data representative of a said processor identification.

37. (Previously presented) A method of operating a fault tolerant computer system as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said replacement processor is replaced by replacing one of said processing sets with a processing set having the replacement processor.
